

ABSTRACT

An encryption key is formed by a method and apparatus that read a sequence of bytes from a memory. The sequence of bytes, which is  
5 larger than the number of bytes in the encryption key, is randomly ordered due to the source of the sequence. Each byte in the sequence is assigned to one of a number of groups where the number of groups is defined by the number of bytes in the encryption key. Each group is then reduced to a single byte to form one of the bytes of the encryption  
10 key.